

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ERK

NOTE: This was dispatched from Washington, DC by
General Schriever.

WDYI

JAN 28 1959

Mr. Donald W. Douglas, Jr.
President
Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc.
3000 Ocean Park Boulevard
Santa Monica, California

... DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS: NOT AUTOMATICALLY
DECLASSIFIED. DOD 5010.104

Dear Mr. Douglas:

I am increasingly concerned over the rate of progress in the WS-117L flight test program and our capabilities to meet currently projected schedules. On the other hand, I fully realize the many competing requirements presently facing your company. In order to permit a management review in this area, I would like a presentation of your company's plans for support of this program. Specifically, I am interested in these areas:

a. Personnel Planning: The most difficult personnel problem at Vandenberg appears to be provision of adequate numbers of supervisory personnel. In your review, I would like a presentation of your present and projected manning structures at Vandenberg AFB, making comparison to your activities at the Sacramento Test Facility, Edwards Rocket Base, Air Force Missile Test Center and Project Emily. Alternate approaches offer themselves which we are considering for adoption wherein Lockheed could assume expanded responsibilities in the management of the WS-117L launch complex and thus alleviate the current shortage of qualified supervisory personnel.

b. Equipment Support: I want to make certain that WS-117L will have the necessary equipment to do its job. In this area, I want to review the allocations of ground support equipment including spare parts support. Since the basic problem in meeting a rapid launch rate is facility down-time after a launching, a discussion of your company's plans for a repair line to overhaul damaged equipment is in order.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WDTI 59-4

~~SECRET~~

Copy 3 of 11 copies.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Donald W. Douglas, Jr., President, Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc.

c. Facility Improvement: I would like your recommendations for hardening the W-117 facilities in order to minimize damage that might be sustained after a launch. Additional comments on redesign to obtain additional R&D launch facility flexibility would be appropriate.

I would like to hold these discussions with you at the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Cys furnished:
✓ WDOV (Gen Ritland)
WDT (Col Terhune)
WDE (Col Curtin)
WDEW (Col Evans)
LHE (LtCol Robertson)

15/ General Schrier

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

WDTI 59-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~